

WHAT DO FLOWERS AND BIRDS TEACH US?

(Matthew 6:25-33)

...It seems today that people everywhere both inside and outside the church are gripped by worry. We tend to worry about all sorts of things. Apart from our tongues, this may be the most common sin among God's children. ...You never find the Lord Jesus worrying. Not even as He faced His death upon the cross. He had complete trust in His Heavenly Father.
...Jesus teaches that we are to live a worry free life. He provides us with the only prescription that makes worry a thing of the past. In a word, you must not live for self, but for God.

TWO WAYS THAT YOU MAY LIVE YOUR LIFE...BUT ONLY ONE WILL SATISFY YOUR SOUL...AND DELIVER YOU FROM WORRY.

I. The World's Way: You May Live For Self...By Striving To Obtain...(vv.25-32)

- ...This is a false and demeaning reason to live, and will lead to endless worry.
- A. Jesus tells us three times in this passage to stop worrying. (vv.25,31,34) "You are God's..." The word "worry" comes from the German word, "to choke," it is a kind of mental and emotional strangulation. Spurgeon, "food, drink, and clothes are the world's trinity of cares."
 - B. Life consists of far more than these basic needs.
...Yet, if you read the popular magazines, we are told that eating, drinking, and clothing is the essence of life. Jesus tells that there is much more to life than this low level of existence.
...We are not to just live to live! This is animal-like. God has intended much more for us.
...This betrays a false view of human beings, as if they were only bodies needing to be fed, clothed, and housed. God intended so much more for a man's life.
 - C. Jesus' cure, he points us to two things in God's creation reminding us of God's provision. (vv.26-30)
 - 1. The birds do not have an elaborate system for food production, yet our Father in heaven cares for them. (v.26) Our God is a wonderful provider!!!
...You are much more valuable than the birds....
...Your worrying will not even add one hour to your life. (v.27) Your life is indestructible until God is done with it here on earth.
 - 2. The flowers of the field are beautifully clothed by our Father. (v.28)
...Yet, they last such a very brief time...
...The contrast, you will exist forever. Wow! God will take care of you. Don't worry!
 - D. If you choose to live on this low level of existence, then you will be like the ungodly who do not have a heavenly Father who cares for them. (vv.31-32)
..."the pagans run after these things." They know of nothing else to pursue...
...Don't live this way, for God knows of all your needs. Have you forgotten Who your Father is? He owns everything. He controls everything, and delights in providing for His children.

II. God's Way: Living For Jesus...By Seeking Him and His Business. (vv.33-34)

- ...We are to be busy in kingdom work and growing in our likeness to Jesus. "righteousness"
...When you do this, your life will have a deep contentment, which is the opposite of worry.
- A. Jesus commands us to live differently from the unsaved crowd. "But you"
 - B. The chief drive in your life should be to live daily under the authority of the King and to see His work (kingdom) extended in every possible way. (at home, school, work...)

- C. Remember: Jesus gives us the cure for worry:
1. This promise of provision is for Christians only...God's children. Not for others.
 2. If saved, you must add to your salvation all you can learn about God's nature and His ability to care for His people. (Matthew 11:28-30) "Come unto Me, all you..."
...This will cause you to grow strong in your faith, knowing that He is able...
 3. Finally, you need to get into the habit of turning to God whenever you feel worry approaching. Your reaction to trouble should be like a conditioned reflex. (1 Peter 5:7)
- D. Don't even worry about tomorrow, for your Father will care for your tomorrows. (v.34)
...God gives us grace, but one day at a time. Worry reveals our distrust of our heavenly Father.

SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?

1. This week when you see birds and flowers let them remind you of Jesus' promise to care for your needs. See how beautiful the flowers are, and watch the carefree birds in your neighborhood. Jesus told us that they are meant to teach us about our wonderful God.
2. Never forget who your Father is!!!! If you are saved, God is your Father!!!!
3. Remember the one condition here: You must be a seeker of His Kingdom (work) and His likeness. (righteousness)
4. Know this, that to be worry free does not mean to be trouble free. But the Lord will carry you through whatever He may bring your way.
5. This great promise is not for you if you are not a Christian. Today confess your sin and receive Jesus as your personal Savior.